

REMARKS

Status of Claims

This application presently includes claims 1-15. Claims 6-15 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-5 remain pending and stand rejected. Claims 1 and 3-5 have been amended to clarify embodiment(s) of the present invention. Claim 2 has been cancelled.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Friel 3,741,413. Applicant respectfully points out that new claim 1 specifies that the collapsed cartons are disposed in an imbricated coil. This differs from Friel, which shows the collapsed cartons in Figure 6 in an imbricated condition as they are transferred from a carton hopper to a feeder from which they are fed into a machine for processing. However, the cartons are not at any time disposed in a coil arrangement, and therefore Friel does not anticipate the subject matter of the amended claims.

Friel also does not teach or suggest the storage of collapsed cartons in any kind of imbricated arrangement. The imbricated condition shown in Figure 6 is, as mentioned, a temporary condition existing for moving cartons only during the transfer operation. To the extent cartons in a stored condition are shown in Friel, it is only in a conventional stacked, palletized arrangement, shown in Figures 1-3.

Applicant submits that Claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by the prior art, as all of the elements of Claim 1 are not disclosed within Friel. The Friel reference does not constitute a bar to patentability.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Friel in view of Heutschi. Heutschi is directed to a tape fastener and fastening method employing the same. Nowhere in Heutschi is there any discussion of a carton storage

medium. While Heutschi mentions the term "printed products", there is no indication that cartons are contemplated. The disclosure of Heutschi is in a different technical field to that of cartons and packaging machinery. Moreover, there is no suggestion in Heutschi that its disclosure could be used to overcome the problem solved by the invention at hand, namely to enable the convenient supply of collapsed cartons to a packaging machine in a continuous manner in a greater quantity than can be achieved from a box or stack of cartons.

Furthermore, it would not be possible to combine the teachings of Friel and Heutschi and preserve the operability of the Friel device. Imbricated cartons are used in Friel as part of the continuous transfer of cartons from the hopper to the feed mechanisms. If the imbricated cartons were instead directed onto a coil, the transfer of cartons to a hopper would be halted.

Claims 2-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Friel in view of Honegger. Honegger is directed to a method and apparatus for the long-term pressing of printed products. Again, while Honegger mentions "printed products", the only example mentioned is "newspapers". The disclosure of Honegger is in a different technical field to that of cartons and packaging machinery. Furthermore, there is no disclosure in Honegger of storage of cartons in an imbricated coil. Figure 3 of Honegger represents a temporary condition wherein the package is "represented in a state where it is in the process of being unwound" (col. 7, ll.24-26).

Furthermore, it would not be possible to combine the teachings of Friel and Heutschi or Honegger and preserve the operability of the Friel device. Imbricated cartons are used in Friel as part of the continuous transfer of cartons from the hopper to the feed mechanisms. If the imbricated cartons were instead directed onto a coil, the transfer of cartons to a hopper would be halted.

Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Friel in view of Wing. Wing is directed to a chain of imbricated bags connected together and supported by two strands of tape. Wing is directed to "bags" and there is no mention of cartons or a storage medium. Wing is in a different technical field to that of cartons/carton storage medium. Furthermore, there is no disclosure of storage of cartons in

animbricated coil. All of the claim elements of any of the currently amended claims are not disclosed in Friel in view of Wing.

Applicant submits that Claim 2-5, as amended, are not are not obvious, as all of the elements of Claim 1, from which Claims 2-5 depend are not disclosed within Friel in view of either Heutschi, Honegger or Wing.

It is earnestly requested that in view of the above Amendments and Remarks, the application as a whole, receives favorable reconsideration, and that all Claims be allowed.

Respectfully Submitted,

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